



More troops to be deployed during holding of Palarong Pambansa

CAMP KANGLEON, Palo, Leyte — No less than the task group commander of the Palarong Pambansa 2009 hosted by the province of Leyte said that some 610 policemen and another 200 military troops will secure the national secondary school games to ensure a peaceful events.

Senior Supt. Gil Hitosis, who is the deputy regional director for operations of the police regional office here, told Leyte Samar Daily Express that the increased number of policemen that will be utilized in coordination with army soldiers coming from the 19th Infantry Battalion will focus on their duties and function in internal security operations and the anti-criminality campaign during the one-week national sporting events.

With the creation of another four sub-task force groups designated to secure the entire activities of the Palarong Pambansa, security would be provided at the airport terminal, VIP Lounge and and other places aside from the intelligence works that they would undertake.

“Of course, the playing venue and the billeting areas will be fully guarded, while 10 percent of the deployed troops will focus on maintaining the flow of the traffic within the city of Tacloban,” Hitosis said,

In fact, the capitol ground has been chosen to be the parking area of vehicles used to shuttle athletes and coaches back to their respective billeting areas .

Bearing the theme “Bridging Unity, Peace and Progress through Sports,” this year’s opening of national games will be headed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

In fact both provincial and city officials, in cooperation with DepEd, are preparing for a grand opening ceremony to welcome the different delegations from the 17 regions in the country.

Sports celebrities and showbiz stars, including the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world, Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, were invited to grace the Palaro.

The annual sports tournament for elementary and secondary schools in 2008 was held in Palawan where Puerto Princesa was the host city to about 10,000 budding athletes and officials.

Senior Supt. Doroteo Palconit, the head of the Leyte PNP, will stand as action man considering that the host province is under his area of jurisdiction. The disposition of troops in the field will directly come from him.

It was again clarified by the PNP regional headquarters that there will no declaration of heightened or red alert during the Palarong Pambansa, unless confirmed reports of threats that would affect the peace and order situation of the region or in Leyte province in particular. **(MIRIAM GARCIA DESACADA)**

Courtesy: www.leytesamardaily.com